

## **UNOC3. Ocean Action Panels. Proposals by Norway**

### **1. Tackling marine pollution in all its forms, including plastic pollution**

*Plastic pollution is today's most rapidly escalating environmental problem and a substantial part of this problem affects the marine environment. To combat this problem, measures are needed throughout the whole lifecycle of products. In order to achieve this, we need a global agreement to galvanise action. The private sector plays a key role in providing the solutions to plastic pollution and we are happy to see that companies call for a global agreement in order to create a global level playing field for them.*

### **2. Sustainable ocean management and planning to advance long-term economic and social development**

*We need a comprehensive approach to sustainably manage 100% of the ocean, starting with coastal and ocean states, and working together regionally and globally to safeguard areas beyond national jurisdiction. By 2030, all ocean areas under national jurisdiction should be sustainably managed, guided by Sustainable Ocean Plans (SOP). A Sustainable Ocean Plan describes policies and mechanisms to facilitate a holistic approach to sustainable use of the ocean and maximize benefits and value creation for current and future generations. The panel could discuss the role of such ocean management models and tools, and common features important to make them successful.*

### **3. Ocean as a source of food**

*The ocean is essential for food security. We need to combine our efforts against hunger, and seafood is a central ingredient. Sustainable aquatic food is key for food security globally. It is therefore essential that aquatic and land-based food systems are connected and viewed as one food system.*

### **4. Ocean and climate nexus**

*SDG 14.2 states that by 2020 we should have: sustainably managed and protected marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience and act for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans. A healthy ocean is critical to meeting global climate, sustainable development and biodiversity goals. The ocean plays a vital role in regulating our global climate. However, the ocean is in crisis. Climate change and greenhouse gas emissions poses adverse effects on the ocean and marine life, including the rise in ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, the decrease in polar ice coverage, decrease in marine biodiversity, as well as coastal erosion and extreme weather events, and related impacts on island and coastal communities. If better managed, protected, and restored, the ocean and ocean ecosystems could both help mitigate climate change and provide adaptation co-benefits.*

#### 5. **Cooperation on coastal and ocean observation systems**

*Rapid development of new sensors and platforms for measuring is transforming coastal and ocean observation. The ecosystems in the coastal zone are complex, and current coastal observation systems are fragmented. There is therefore a need for cooperation and coordination on investments and use of infrastructure between countries, and there is a need to develop models – digital twins as we cannot develop costly observation systems everywhere. Do we have adequate strategies and cooperation, especially in the least developed areas? What should be the investment priorities?*

#### 6. **Land-sea interactions**

*Onshore activity often has offshore implications. For instance, run-off will affect the marine environment. Alignment between marine and terrestrial planning and management is important and should be achieved through consistency of policy guidance, plans and decisions.*

#### 7. **Empowering women in the blue economy**

*Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also a necessary foundation for a prosperous and sustainable world. The blue economy, encompassing various sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, shipping, marine tourism, and renewable energy, presents significant opportunities for economic growth and development. However, women's participation and leadership in these sectors remains disproportionately low. Addressing gender disparities in the blue economy is essential for achieving sustainable development goals and unlocking the full potential of ocean resources.*

Other potential topics that Norway would support:

- Sustainable fisheries management.
- Implementation of already existing agreements.
- Marine science/policy interface.